



CITY OF ROANOKE
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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February 2, 2009

Honorable David A. Bowers, Mayor
Honorable Sherman P. Lea, Vice Mayor
Honorable Gwendolyn W. Mason, Council Member
Honorable Alvin L. Nash, Council Member
Honorable Anita J. Price, Council Member
Honorable Court G. Rosen, Council Member
Honorable David B. Trinkle, Council Member

Dear Mayor Bowers and Members of City Council:

Subject: Assistance to Firefighters
Grant Acceptance

Background:

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is designed as an opportunity for the United States Congress to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to enhance basic fire service delivery across the United States. Since 2001, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program has provided over \$2.4 billion to local fire departments and first responder organizations. Nationally, the AFG awards, which will be distributed in phases, will ultimately provide approximately \$490 million to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations throughout the country.

The Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and the U.S. Fire Administration recently announced that the Roanoke Fire-EMS Department has been awarded a federal grant of \$792,000 from the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The grant requires a local match of 20%, totaling \$158,400. Funding of \$86,000 is available upon completion of the Williamson Road Fire Station. Funding of \$72,400 may be borrowed from the Financial Systems Upgrade Project as these funds are not needed at this time for that project. Future funding will be provided to the Financial Systems Upgrade account as an offset of this borrowed amount.

Considerations:

The conversion of the current analog radio infrastructure to a digital platform is included in the current Capital Improvement Program at a total projected cost of \$6.9 million, with implementation planned over a three year period. The award of the grant will reduce the total net cost to the City of Roanoke. Additionally, firefighter safety and regional mutual aid calls will be enhanced as this radio purchase will help us maintain interoperability with Roanoke County as they undergo their migration to a digital radio system.

Recommended Action:

Authorize acceptance of the grant of \$633,600 with a match from the City of \$158,400, totaling \$792,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute required grant agreement and any other related documents; such documents to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Adopt a revenue estimate in the amount of \$633,600 in Grant Fund account 35-430-3583-3583 for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant FY09. Transfer \$86,000 from the Williamson Rd. Fire-EMS Station Project (Account 08-530-9681-9003) and \$72,400 from Financial Systems Upgrade Project (Account 13-430-9865-9003).

Appropriate funding in the amount of \$792,000 to an account to be established by the Director of Finance in the Grant Fund.

Respectfully submitted,



Darlene L. Burcham
City Manager

- c: Stephanie M. Moon, City Clerk
William M. Hackworth, City Attorney
Ann H. Shawver, Director of Finance
James Grigsby, Assistant City Manager for Operations
H. David Hoback, Fire-EMS Chief

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